

SHERBORNE URBAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the year
1954.

Medical Officer of Health -

NOEL F. PEARSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector -

C. E. BEAN, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.

Council Offices,
STURMINSTER NEWTON,
Dorset.

1st June 1955.

To the Chairman and Members,
Sherborne Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1954.

The report is prepared and will be circulated in accordance with the requirements of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations 1935 & 1951.

Appendix A to the report contains extracts from the findings of the 1951 Census which may be of interest.

The report shows that the health of the district has remained satisfactory during the year and that there has been no undue incidence of serious infectious disease. The vital statistics on page one compare favourably with those for Dorset and England and Wales as a whole.

I am indebted to Mr. Bean and Mr. Williams, your Sanitary Inspectors, for their co-operation and help during the year, and for Mr. Bean's assistance in preparing this report. I am also indebted to my clerk, Miss.P.Goddard, for her efficient services.

I would also like to thank you, Gentlemen, for your courtesy and consideration throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant

Leslie J. Pearson.

Medical Officer of Health.

SHERBORNE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR

1 9 5 4.

A. Area - 1,650 acres.
Rateable value - £59,061.
Production of a penny rate - £231.0s.7d.

Vital Statistics.

Population (Registrar General's Estimate) - 7,340

LIVE BIRTHS.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>		Comparative figures	
				(a) Sherborne U.D.	(b) England & Wales.
Total	46	34	} Rate per 1,000 resident pop: = 10.9		
Legitimate	43	34			
Illegitimate	3	-		12.9	15.2
Illegitimacy Rate per 1,000 live births			= 37.5	37.5	46.0

STILLBIRTHS.

Total	-	-	Rate per 1,000 live & stillbirths = Nil	Nil	24.0
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DEATHS.

Total	29	34	Rate per 1,000 resident pop: = 8.6	7.74	11.3
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Deaths in infants under one year	-	4	Infantile death rate per 1,000 live births = 50.0	50.0	25.5
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			<u>1954.</u>	<u>1953.</u>
Deaths from	Maternal Causes	-	Nil	Nil
"	" Tuberculosis	-	1	Nil
"	" Cancer of the lungs	-	1	2
"	" Coronary Disease (Angina)	-	9	8
"	" Influenza	-	Nil	4
"	" Pneumonia	-	3	4
"	" Motor vehicle accidents	-	Nil	1
"	" All other accidents	-	2	Nil
"	" Suicide	-	Nil	1

B. Personal Health Services in the District.

The personal health services, including the ambulance service, continued to be provided by the County Council. It has not yet been possible to develop fully the County Council's Domestic Home Help Service in the district. Otherwise, the services provided have been adequate and no further comment with regard to them is considered necessary.

The Public Health Laboratory Services have proved in all respects most helpful and satisfactory.

C. Environmental Health Services.

Sanitary circumstances of the district -

1. SANITARY STAFF.

C.E.Bean, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.	Chief Sanitary Inspector. Part time.
P.A.Williams, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.	Assistant Sanitary Inspector. Full time.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector also carries out the duties of Water Engineer and Surveyor.

The Assistant Sanitary Inspector also carries out duties as Meat Inspector.

Clerical Staff - 3 clerks (part time).

2. WATER SUPPLY.

	<u>1952.</u>	<u>1953.</u>	<u>1954.</u>
Rainfall -	34.49 ins.	26.50 ins.	34.8 ins.

The supply has remained adequate in quantity and the Council has been able to supplement the supplies in the area of the Sherborne Rural District to the extent of ten and three quarter million gallons during the year.

The quality from each source has remained satisfactory.

Regular monthly samples from each of the Council's supplies totalling 126, were submitted for bacteriological examination and a sample from each source was submitted for chemical examination. Daily testing of the supplies for residual chlorine was carried out. The fluorine content of the supplies was shown to be between 0.20 and 0.3.

A number of private well supplies are used in the district for industrial purposes. From these supplies 41 samples of water were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination during the year.

1,961 houses in the Urban District are provided with a water supply piped into the house. 78 houses obtain their water by means of standpipes.

80 yards of 4" main was laid in Vernalls Road to improve the water supply to Council houses in the higher part of the town.

3. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The Council's Consultant Engineers were engaged during the year in formulating proposals to improve the existing sewerage

disposal works. At the end of the year, negotiations were proceeding for the acquisition of the necessary additional land required.

4. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

(a) House Refuse. The Local Authority's scheme provides for the collection of house refuse weekly and disposal by controlled tipping.

(b) Salvage. The following amounts of salvage have been collected during the year in conjunction with regular refuse collection:-

	<u>Tons.</u>	<u>Cwts.</u>	<u>Qrs.</u>
Paper	84	2	1
Metal	5	0	2
Rags	1	12	1
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Total -	90.	15.	0.
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(c) Cesspool Emptying. No provision is required to be made in the district.

5. RIVERS AND STREAMS POLLUTION.

The Somerset River Board, in the course of their duties under the Rivers Board Act 1948, have continued to exercise close observation on the purity of the River Yeo.

6. SHOPS ACTS.

In addition to the Council's direct responsibilities under the Shops Acts 1950, the Council has also had delegated to it the County Council's functions under Section 38(3)(4) and (5).

The following inspections were carried out -

No. of inspections carried out	85
No. of defects found	6
No. of notices served	6
No. of notices complied with	4

7. FACTORIES ACT 1937.

	<u>No. of premises on register.</u>	<u>Inspections.</u>	<u>Written Notices.</u>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	10	10	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	53	55	2
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises	2	12	-
<hr/>			
	65	77	2
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	No. of cases in which defects were -		
	<u>Found.</u>	<u>Remedied.</u>	<u>Referred by H.M. Inspector.</u>
Want of cleanliness	4	4	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	1	1	-
Sanitary Conveniences -			
Unsuitable or defective	1	1	1
Not separate for sexes	1	-	1
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	2	2	-
	9	8	2

No. of outworkers = 54.

8. SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Six observations were made and six informal notices were served regarding smoke nuisance. All notices were complied with.

9. SWIMMING BATHS.

There is one private swimming bath in the district available for use by the public during part of the year. When used by the public the bath is under the control of the local authority and the water is chlorinated.

Samples of water for bacteriological examination and residual chlorine estimation all proved satisfactory.

10. MOVEABLE DWELLINGS AND CAMPING SITES.

No. of moveable dwellings licensed during the year 5
 No. of camping sites licensed in the district 2

Although one of the licensed camping sites is reasonably suitable for the use to which it is put, the other one is not satisfactory. Whilst the housing situation has been acute, use of this site has been permitted for a number of caravans, normally residential accommodation for prolonged periods. Now that the demand for the use of such accommodation is materially reduced, this site can no longer be considered suitable for the purpose.

It is hoped that consideration will now be given by the Council to set apart an area in the Culverhayes Car Park extension, provided with the necessary sanitary facilities, for the temporary use of caravans passing through the district.

11. VERMINOUS PREMISES.

The disinfestation of premises infested by cockroaches was called for.

12. PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS.

The duties of the District Council under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949 are carried out in the district by the North Dorset Joint Rodent Committee whose activities cover the five districts in North Dorset and the Beaminster Rural District.

The total treatments undertaken in the district during the year numbered 238.

13. RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT 1951.

No. of registered premises	Nil
No. of licensed premises	Nil
No. of inspections carried out	Nil

14. PET ANIMALS ACT 1951.

No. of licensed premises	2
No. of inspections made	6

15. SCHOOLS (INCLUDING SCHOOL CANTEENS).

All the County Council Schools were inspected and particular attention was paid to the canteens. The improvement of the ventilation in one canteen kitchen and the yard drainage at another canteen, previously reported to the County Council, were satisfactorily completed. Proposals are in hand for the construction of a new County Secondary Modern School to alleviate the overcrowding in the existing Council School and the use of temporary premises at Coldharbour.

16. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS 1948 & 1951 - Section 47.

No action was called for under these Acts during the year.

17. HOUSING.

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year -

No. of houses inspected during the year	365
No. of inspections made	489

No. of informal notices served	14
No. of informal notices complied with	14
No. of statutory notices served	Nil
No. of statutory notices complied with	Nil

No. of houses reported under Section 11 of the Housing Act 1936	Nil
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Action taken by the local authority in respect of such houses -

(a) Demolition Orders made	Nil
(b) Undertakings accepted for -	
(i) Closure	Nil
(ii) Reconditioning	Nil
(iii) Other action	Nil

Apart from the above-mentioned more detailed inspections, a general survey of 1,680 houses in the district was carried out, as a preliminary to more detailed inspection and remedial action. The results of this survey were presented in a special report to you in March. The Survey showed that, whilst there were in the district approximately 120 properties which are not worth saving and are only fit for demolition or clearance, there are an equal number of houses which are, at the present time, unfit for human habitation but which could be saved and made fit if essential repairs were carried out, sinks were provided, and a piped water supply carried into the houses.

Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954.

No. of applications received for certificates of disrepair	Nil
No. of certificates issued	Nil

The present indications are that property owners are not taking the opportunity presented by this Act to increase the rents of their property and, incidentally, carrying out the essential repairs to enable them to do so.

The amendment of Section 9 of the Housing Act 1936, by the above-mentioned Act, has withdrawn the power of local authorities to enforce necessary repairs in any but the worst property.

It follows that unless the landlord is given greater inducement to effect repairs voluntarily, or the local authority is again given power to see the property is made 'in all respects fit', a further deterioration of existing property is to be anticipated until its condition becomes so bad that the local authority can enforce repairs or demolition.

Improvement Grants (Housing Act 1949 and Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954).

No. of applications received during the year	7
No. granted	4
No. refused	3

The above-mentioned applications were received only from owner-occupiers. There is no indication, at the present time, that the larger property owners are taking advantage of these Acts to improve the standard of property owned by them for letting. There is a large amount of property in your district, substantial in construction and in a reasonable state of repair, but which lacks the reasonable sanitary facilities expected by the housewife of today. It is regretted that the facilities offered by the above-mentioned Acts are not being used to improve these properties available for letting. The Council have proposals for improving sub-standard property owned by them and it is hoped that other property owners will follow the Council's example. Alternatively, the Council might well consider the acquisition of suitable property for improvement.

Slum Clearance.

Ministry of Housing and Local Government Circular 30/54 called for the resumption of action by Councils regarding unfit property in their district as a matter of urgency and the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, later in the year, laid a positive duty on the Authority to submit within twelve months its programme in respect of slum clearance. The majority of the detailed housing inspections carried out during the year were implementing these directions with a view to the submission early in 1955 of formal representations in respect of the worst 'unfit' houses in the district.

Overcrowding.

No. of cases of 'statutory' overcrowding found and reported to Local Authority	5
No. of cases of overcrowding abated	3
Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil

Houses Let in Lodgings.

No. of houses known to be let in lodgings	Nil
Total No. of houses in the district.	2,049

Requisitioned Premises etc.

Two houses were held under requisition at the end of the year. Seven houses, on which Demolition or Closing Orders had been made, were being occupied under licence at the end of the year.

Provision of New Houses and Re-Housing.

No. of houses provided by the Local Authority -

	<u>Temporary Prefab.</u>	<u>Traditional Type.</u>
During 1954	-	34
Post-war	40	205
Pre-war	-	296

Total No. of families re-housed during 1954 39

Medical Officer of Health's Recommendations.

During the year 25 recommendations for the granting of additional points on medical grounds in connection with their application for a Council house were made by the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the conditions under which 50 applicants were living, following inspections carried out by him.

Applications for Council Houses.

At the end of the year there were 253 applicants for Council houses, of which 187 were resident within the district. These figures correspond with 262 and 185 respectively at the end of the preceding year.

18. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

1. Milk.

Food & Drugs (Milk & Dairies) Act 1944.

No. of 'dealers' subject to registration
by the District Council under regulation
14 of the Milk (Special Designations)
(Raw Milk) Regulations 1949 4

No. of 'dealers' licensed under regulation
14 of the Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised
and Sterilised Milk) Regulations 1949 2

No. of 'dairies' in the district registered
under regulation 8 of the Milk & Dairies
Regulations 1949 4

No. of 'distributors' registered under regulation 8
of the Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949 4

Samples.

No. of samples of milk taken and submitted for examination
during the year -

Tuberculin Tested	}	28
Accredited		
Pasteurised		163
Undesignated		26

No. of samples of milk subjected to a guinea pig
inoculation test for Tuberculosis 4

Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949 - Regulation 20.

No action was called for or taken during the year.

2. Other Food Premises.

No. of premises in the district subject to Section 13 of the Food & Drugs Act 1938	54
No. being - restaurant kitchens	7
hotel kitchens	15
food factories	5
No. of premises subject to Section 13 inspected	54
No. being - restaurant kitchens	7
hotel kitchens	15
food factories	5
No. of premises in the district subject to registration under Section 14 of the Food & Drugs Act 1938	33
No. of such premises registered in respect of -	
(a) Ice-cream	30
(b) Sausages & prepared meats	3
No. of premises inspected during the year	33
No. of samples of ice-cream, including iced lollies, taken and submitted for Methylene Blue Test	164

Results:- Grade 1	-	129
" 2	-	15
" 3	-	10
" 4	-	10

Food Inspection.

Slaughterhouses. Until July 1st slaughtering was carried out at the Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse. On its closure, two private slaughterhouses were licensed.

Meat Inspection.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	<u>Pigs.</u>	<u>Cattle.</u>	<u>Calves.</u>	<u>Sheep and Lambs.</u>
Number killed	2876	1941	1040	3290
Number inspected	2876	1941	1040	3290
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis.</u>				
Whole carcase condemned	29	10	4	1
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	239	278	3	279
Percentage of the number killed affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	9.3	14.8	.67	8.5
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>				
Whole carcase condemned	12	13	1	-
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	264	290	1	-
Percentage of the number killed affected with Tuberculosis	9.6	15.6	.19	-

Butchers and other shops.

Quantities condemned	-	Meat	23 lbs.
		Fish	10 lbs.
Other foods condemned	-	Meat	49 tins.
		Assorted foods	289 tins.

19. INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

No. of investigations carried out	3
No. of disinfections carried out	Nil

20. SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT.

Total No. of inspections (under all headings)	1,591
Total No. of informal notices served	31
Total No. of informal notices complied with	31
Total No. of statutory notices served	Nil
Total No. of statutory notices complied with	Nil
Total No. of prosecutions	Nil

D. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.

Other than Tuberculosis -

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified.</u>
Scarlet Fever	7
Puerperal Pyrexia	4
Whooping Cough	2
Measles	1
Dysentery	1
Acute Pneumonia	1

It will be noted that there was no undue incidence of any notifiable disease during the year.

Tuberculosis -

<u>New Cases Notified.</u>		<u>Deaths.</u>	
<u>Respiratory.</u>	<u>Non.Respiratory.</u>	<u>Respiratory.</u>	<u>Non.Respiratory.</u>
1	1	1	2

Food Poisoning.

No cases of suspected food poisoning were notified during the year.

NOEL F. PEARSON.

Medical Officer of Health.

A P P E N D I X A - EXTRACTS FROM RESULTS OF THE CENSUS 1951.

		P O P U L A T I O N.					
	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Increase + or Decrease - 1931 - 1951.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Percentage. Natural.</u>	<u>Balance.</u>	<u>Remarks.</u>	<u>Per cent Population 70 years or over.</u>
Shaftesbury Borough	3,303	+484	+17.2	+0.4	+16.8	+484 added by boundary changes.	10.2
Sherborne U.D.	5,987	-555	-8.5	+1.0	-9.5	Decrease due to census in 1951 taking place during school holidays.	9.4
Shaftesbury R.D.	9,099	+460	+5.3	+2.5	+2.8	-452 loss due to boundary changes.	8.8
Sturminster R.D.	9,304	+816	+9.6	+1.6	+8.0	+562 added by boundary changes.	9.9
Sherborne R.D.	6,119	+736	+13.7	+7.8	+5.9	+322 added by boundary changes.	7.3
DORSET	291,323	+51,971	+21.7	+6.2	+15.5		8.6

H O U S I N G.

	<u>Persons per room.</u>	<u>Piped water into house. Per cent having none or sharing.</u>	<u>Cooking stove. Per cent having none or sharing.</u>	<u>Kitchen sink. Per cent having none or sharing.</u>	<u>Water closet. Per cent having none or sharing.</u>	<u>Fixed Bath. Per cent having none or sharing.</u>	<u>Per cent having all five facilities.</u>
Shaftesbury Borough	0.64	18	5	14	13	39	57
Sherborne U.D.	0.65	13	2	9	11	40	57
Shaftesbury R.D.	0.65	20	6	19	39	48	45
Sturminster R.D.	0.62	18	6	15	34	41	52
Sherborne R.D.	0.65	24	4	20	55	55	38
DORSET COUNTY	0.67	22	7	17	27	41	54
ENGLAND & WALES		17	7	13	21	45	
